

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01 AID-20 PC-04

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O 182315Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2480

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, NU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GUERILLA ACTION IN NANDAIME

1. THE NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER OF NANDAIME, A LIEUTENANT, AND TWO OTHER NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WERE REPORTELY KILLED THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 18 IN OR NEAR NANDAIME, GRANADA, IN AN APPARENT AMBUSH. ACCORDING TO A LA PRENSA STORY, THE THREE WERE MACHINE-GUNNED WHEN THEY WENT TO INVESTIGATE A REPORT OF "SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS". TWO WOMEN AND ONE MAN WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN THE ASSAILANTS. NANDAIME IS A SMALL TOWN LOCATED 56 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF MANAGUA ON THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY, EIGHTY KILOMETERS FROM THE COSTA RICAN BORDER. ACCORDING TO LA PRENSA, THE NATIONAL GUARD IS CONDUCTING AN INTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE NANDAIME REGION EMPLOYING HELICOPTERS IN THE OPERATION.

LATER IN THE DAY, A RADIO REPORT FROM GRANADA GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF A SECOND ENCOUNTER SOUTHEAST OF NANDAIME ON THE ROAD TO RIVAS WITH THE ASSAILANTS WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AS SANDINISTAS. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, TWO MALE "GUERILLAS" WERE KILLED AND TWO WERE CAPTURED. ANOTHER NATIONAL GUARDSMAN WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THIS ENGAGEMENT.

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3. THE ENCOUNTERS IN NANDAIME COULD MEAN RENEWED ACTIVITY BY THE NATIONAL SANDINISTA LIBERATION FRONT (FSLN) ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT AN AREA IN WHICH THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN OPERATING. THE FSLN HAS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS BEEN AT LEAST OVERTLY INACTIVE, BUT FREQUENT RUMORS ARE HEARD THAT THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES AS A POTENTIAL GUERILLA THREAT.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENTS IN THE NANDAIME AREA SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 19 WHEN THE NATIONAL GUARD IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A RELEASE ON THE SUBJECT.
SHELTON

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